

The Director of Central Intelligence

Washington, D. C. 20505

24 July 1985

Evans and Novak Column  
Suite 1312  
1750 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D. C. 20006

Dear Rolly and Bob,

I liked your story about me in the Star  
-- much better than I usually get. Still, I  
thought I'd tell you that you got that story  
about my house and the Japanese upside down.  
For future reference, I enclose a letter which  
I wrote to correct Dave Ignatius' story in  
The Wall Street Journal on this subject.

Best regards.

Yours,

William J. Casey

Attachment:

Letter dated 16 January 1985

The Director of Central Intelligence

Washington, D.C. 20505

16 January 1985

The Editor  
The Wall Street Journal  
22 Cortlandt Street  
New York, New York 10007

To the Editor:

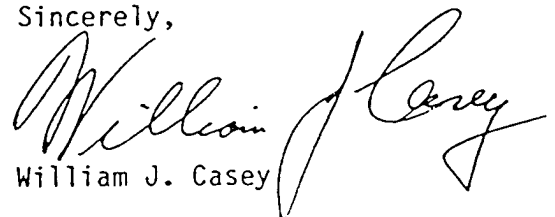
I am complimented that the JOURNAL devoted a front-page article to me on January 11; however, Mr. Ignatius started out flat wrong in his story that many years ago I tried to purchase a house already promised to the Japanese embassy and that the "brash Mr. Casey didn't get the house." He got the story upside down. Not only did I "get the house" and live happily in it for seven years, but the Japanese embassy had tried to purchase the house that had been promised to me--not the other way around!

Mr. Ignatius also claims that I sent one particular estimate "back for revision nine times." The record is that I saw and commented on the last two drafts. What happened was that the analyst who drafted the estimate, based on his 20 years of experience in the region and months of research and visits to the area, felt that deletions made by another staff officer would alter or suppress significant information and judgments at which the analyst had arrived. My role was to restore some of the deletions to ensure that, on a controversial subject, the policymakers got the full range of judgments prevailing in the American Intelligence Community. The estimate was approved unanimously by the heads of all the members of the Intelligence Community. The production of this estimate was reviewed by the House Intelligence Committee which concluded last week in its annual report that: "dissenting views were printed at the very beginning of the study, a practice the Committee applauds."

While I cannot comment on Mr. Ignatius' allegations attributing certain covert activities to me, your readers should know that any such activity must be directed, authorized and funded by those in the Executive Branch responsible for our national security and the Congress as well.

What would the JOURNAL say about a CIA report so imprecise?

Sincerely,

  
William J. Casey